Vol. 7. Numb 28.

The Athenian Mercury:

Saturday, July 2. 1692.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

Queſt. 1. *ONe who hath been married to a Gentlewoman one and twenty years, and hath had eight Children by her, ſhe got leave of him to live from him a twelve month, which hath bin eleven years; he being ſomething in years, and lame, would fain perſwade her to live with him again, but cannot: Your Opinion is deſired how he ſhould govern himſelf in this condition?*

Anſw. He ought to apply himſelf to ſome Lawyer, who will direct him how to make a legal perſwaſion, ſince no other will do, and his being in years, and lame, are Arguments that he has need of his Wife at home, this is ſuppoſing the Caſe to be juſt as its ſtated in the Queſtion.

Queſt. 2. *If* Solomon *had* 1000 *Wives and Concubines, yet found not one wiſe Woman, and but one wiſe Man, ought not then a wiſe man to conceal a fault, if he be excellent (or Princely) and rather judge himſelf, than raſhly judge and condemn another falſly: The Queſtion is, VVhether* Socrates *did wiſely when hearing the loud Clamours of his Conſort, left her as he uſed to do, ſhe being the more angry, hasted and flung a Chamber-pot on his Head, he ſaying only* Ha! Ha! *I thought after all this Thunder there would come Rain: Or whether by his Patience he purchaſed to himſelf theſe Inquietudes?*

Anſw. If he had not done wiſely at this time, it had not eclipſed him, for no Man is wiſe at all times; but *Socrates* raiſed his Fame more by this curs'd Wife, than if ſhe had been better temper'd; he gave her provocations enough, but her Paſſion cover'd his Faults, and his Politick Silence paſt for Patience, and it was a pleaſure to him to have the opportunity to vent ſome witty reflection, or Saying, whereby his Memory would be regiſtred in the roll of everlaſting Fame, this Story in the Queſtion is one of them; therefore this ſort of Wife was a foil to his Glory, and as reputable to him, and as uſeful as the Tub to that Tub-Monk *Diogenes*, and therefore at all times, but eſpecially at this time *Socrates* did wiſely in converting her Clamour into an uſeful Obſervation.

Queſt. 3. A *gets* B *with Child, when diſcovered they confeſs'd they were married, but could not prove it ſo, however they liv'd together as Man and VVife the ſpace of two years:* A's *Affairs requiring his perſonal Attendance in a place remote from his Abode, takes leave of his VVife, and went his Journey, firſt aſſuring her of his return as ſoon as his Affair would permit, but in the mean time* D *gets* B *with Child, and confeſs'd he had Carnal Knowledge of her.* A *returns in a years time, and finding his wife had betray'd his Bed, diſowned the Marriage, that is, declared he was never married to her, leaves her and married another woman: whether or no* D *in point of Conſcience is under any Obligation to make her any ſatisfaction, and if ſo, in what. This is matter of fact, and the perſons yet living in, or about* London, *the Child dyed in a ſhort time after: Pray Gent. give your Opinion in this matter?*

Anſw. How many years it is ſince, and other Circumſtances are omitted, but *D* ought to make her amends for reproaching her, if it was voluntary, for perhaps he could no way prove he had that Knowledge of her, and therefore as ſhe loſt a good Husband in effect, by condeſcending to *D*, he ought to help her to a good Husband to make her ſatisfaction.

Queſt. 4. *There is a conſiderable wager depending between two Gentlemen,* viz. *VVhether* England *and* Scotland *are not originally termed* Great Brittain, *without the Kingdom of* Ireland. *Your ſpeedy Anſwer is earneſtly deſired, becauſe the perſons are going into the Country: The other party preſumes the* 3 *Kingdoms are under the ſame denomination of* Great Brittain?

Anſw. Brittane had its name from the *Phœnecians*, who impoſed the Name *Bretannæ* upon it, from the Tin-mines they found in *Cornwall*, but *Britannia* major is *England*, and *Brittannia* minor is *Scotland*, vid. *Sams Brittannia.*

Queſt. 6. *VVhether it be not a Sin to cheat the King of his Cuſtom or Exciſe: I pray give your Opinion of this alſo: I mean by a Cheat, that the Owners do conceal the Goods from the Kings Officers, ſo that it may not be lyable to pay the Duty of them as by Law eſtabliſhed?*

Anſw. It is a Sin againſt the Government, and they pay for it when they are taken, and that's the Damnation of the Law which they are to receive, for their Sin in this Caſe, and to prevent this Sin, are maintain'd many Officers, as the Queriſt alledges, which is a good Employment and Livelihood.

Queſt. 6. *Sirs, Pleaſe to reſolve me, what Knowledge and Concern the Dead have for their ſurviving Friends and Relations, whom they loved paſſionately when alive, and if it be in their power to appear to them again?*

Anſw. That they are under Laws and reſtraints, is evident from that Hiſtory of *Dives*, which repreſents the Condition of one of the Damned, whoſe Brethren were then under the diſpenſation of *Moſes*, who was then alive to be heard: And if his Brethren would not regard the Miracles of *Moſes* and the Prophets, (who could raiſe the Dead when it was expedient;) neither would they credit one ſent from the dead, as many did not believe the Reſurrection, tho' atteſted and ſeen by hundreds, they are ſwallowed up with the Capacities they are in, and unleſs in extraordinary Caſes, make no appearance in theſe lower Regions.

Queſt. 7. Gentlemen, *A Young Man a friend of mine deſires your Opinion in this Caſe: He formerly Courts a young Woman, when he had got her Conſent, and was really enſur'd to her, upon ſome words fell out with her, goes into the Country and marries with another, after he was married kept Company with his old Sweet-heart, inſomuch that his Wife was jealous of her: When his Wife came to ly in, ſhe died; when ſhe was on her Death-bed, ſhe ſent for her Husband, and told him,* If he Married his Old Sweet-heart, ſhe would come and pull him out of his Bed from her; *he promiſed her that he would not marry her, nor be concern'd with her, as he hop'd to have mercy of Almighty God: But he has gone contrary to his promiſes, courted her, and has gain'd her good will, and the VVedding Day was appointed, which was on* Sunday *the* 15th. *of* June, *when the Day came he was taken lame of all his Limbs, ſo it was put by: He got well of this, and appointed another day which was on the* 19th. *of* June *laſt, when he was a going to* Croydon, *in order to perform his Ceremony. VVhen he had got on his Horſe, he was taken with the* Griping of the Guts, *ſo that he could not ſit on his Horſe, but was forc'd to be brought home by 2 men, and no body thought he would have lived: So,* Worthy Gentlemen, *I would deſire you to tell in your* Saturdays Mercury, *VVhether it may be lawful for him to marry her by the Law of God, or Man, ſince he has vow'd ſo ſincerely to the contrary, he having got well again?*

Anſw. He may Marry, having repeated his Promiſe unto her, there being no Law that takes Cognizance of his promiſe unto his dying Wife, which might proceed from the ſurprizing apprehenſions of her appearing again, altho' in all Equity and Gratitude he ought to endeavour to atone for the former diſſervice by now marrying his *Quondam* Sweetheart, if he could make her amends; unleſs he had leſſened that Obligation by an unlawful intimacy during his Wives Life, a fault not to be deleated by formal Repentance, or the *Opus Operatum* of Marriage; neither by the force he has laid upon his Promiſe, (*viz.* not to marry, as he hoped to find mercy for his former Sins) can it be ſuppoſeable that God has warned him by two Judg-

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ments not to Marry, therefore a farther Tryal to purſue the intended Marriage, will ſoon determine whether it be in his Wifes Power to return again, her Threat being to take effect after Marriage, which will very much contribute to ſatisfie the World, which longs very much in theſe particulars.

Queſt. 8. *The* Turkiſh Spy *in his* 2d. Vol. *p.* 189. *makes mention of a* Spaniſh *Aſtrologer that Calculated the* French *King's Nativity, as that he ſhall make the Crown of* France *Imperial, having ſubdued* Spain, Italy, *and* Germany, *that he ſhall ſhake the* Ottoman *Empire, but in the end ſhall be Depoſed by his own Subjects: I deſire your Sentiments of it, whether there's not a great probability that our deſign'd Deſcent may not cauſe the Accompliſhment of the latter part, ſeeing the former is in ſome meaſure come to paſs?*

Anſw. There's a *glut of Arguments* every where tending to this effect. Some from the Calculation of his Nativity do Predict, that the *Great Baſtard* ſhall not long Protect the *Little One*; others from the Perjuries and Inhumanities he has Committed, expect ſome ſignal Judgment upon him, and his Prieſts would perſwade all Mankind to take their Farewell of Chriſtian Religion; for if God muſt ſtand in need of ſuch Diabolical Men and Means to fill Heaven with New Converts, they muſt have a ſtronger Patent from Heaven for Murder, beyond what ever Chriſt had, who Commanded his Diſciples to Preach Remiſſion of ſins, *firſt to thoſe of Jeruſalem, who had Crucified him,* and not to Kill them, or Compell them to Come in by *Halters* and *Dragoons.* And in probability as his Strength is in his Frontiers, which keeps out the Confederates as well as keeps in his Subjects, that being broken by an *Army in his Countrey*, it may ſucceed as the *Spaniſh* Aſtrologer is ſaid to Predict, or as *Partridge's* Almanack has it:

Let all the Plagues of Murther now be flung
On that Curs'd Babe from whence thoſe Miſchiefs ſprung.
There's ruffling work above, and hence muſt flow
Mutations here, ſome Tyrants overthrow:
Tho' at this diſtance, yet methinks I hear
Some pleaſant News, ſome Abdication near.

Queſt. 9. *Gentlemen, It is ſome time ſince I ſent you this Queſtion — What is the Reaſon that the ſame Number of People ſpends more Bread when Corn is dear, than they do when it is cheap? I ſay, more in quantity, not in value: That the thing is true as to matter of Fact, I appeal to any Baker of thirty Years ſtanding: Pray your Anſwer in your next?*

Anſw. The *Turks* ſay the World is founded upon an Ox-horn, and we ſay it moves upon its own Axis, which without explaining looks equally extravagant; but they mean, where the Ox thrives, there Graſs is plenty, and all things on the Earth correſpond: So when Bread is dear, all other edible things are proportionably dear, and therefore Bread and Water will do; *Natura paucis Contenta*; and therefore more Bread is Conſumed, becauſe it anſwers moſt of the other in ſome degree.

Queſt. 10. *My Son, about fifteen Years of Age, on* Wedneſday *the 1ſt. of laſt* June, *about Nine a Clock at Night, went to his Bed, no ſooner laid down, but he heard as it were a Hand ſweeping on the Wall, then it came with a ruſhing Noiſe on his Beds-head, then it ſtroaked him over the Face twice very gently, and as ſoon as the Hand was off he felt a cold wind blow on his Face, which made it very cold, but his Body was warm; he opening his Eyes, ſaw an Apparition of a Woman cloathed in Black Apparel, which went over the Bolſter with a ruſhing Noiſe, he ſaw the Curtain to gather up together as it went out, and the Curtain to have a ſhaking for ſome time after; then being affrighted, he roſe out of the Bed and came down ſtairs. Another Son and Daughter of mine, a few Years ſince, have ſeen the like Apparition of a Woman in the ſame room with a lighted Candle, but when ſpoke to, it vaniſhed. Several ſorts of unuſual Noiſes are often heard in the Houſe by my ſelf, and moſt of the Family: I favourably deſire to know of you (having a Civiliz'd Family) what ſhould be the Occaſion of this diſturbance, or whether it be adviſable to ask the Queſtion of the Apparition?*

Anſw. What manner of metaphyſical Matters our Souls are, we cannot tell, yet we know they really exiſt, and act our Bodies, altho' they are not ſubject to ſenſe; yet this doth not hinder, but that a ſpiritual Subſtance may be ſeparated from our Body, and may be again cloathed with a Body or Vehicle that may be airy, fiery, or cloudy, and be viſible to our ſenſes, altho' the exiſtence or eſſence of the Spirit we cannot ſee, but its outward cloathing: And that ſuch Appearances have been in all Ages, the learned as well as the unlearned affirm, from real Matters of Fact; ſuch are theſe following: At *Puddle-Dock* was a Houſe ſo diſturbed, that ſeveral Tenants could not thrive therein; after the Fire Alderman *L*— purchaſing the ground, cauſed a Cellar to be dug lower, and there was the Body of a Man taken up, which had a great Nail driven into the Skull; the Alderman ordered the Labourers to carry the Body and bury it in St. *Gregorys* Church-yard, *London*, and no diſturbance has been ſince. The other is at the *Grange* in *Lancaſhire*, where very many Years was an Apparition in the Garden, and in one Chamber of the Houſe, it was in the ſhape of a Grey-hound, the precurrent Noiſe was like a Man hiſſing to call a Dog; this Apparition did no hurt, only pull the Cloaths, inſomuch that they made wooden Preſs-beds for that room, which were rock'd, and more diſturbant by the Noiſe than before; when it paſs'd by, it was felt as a Cold Wind; at laſt digging a high Bank, to carry off Soil to other ground; after ſome Loads dug away, there was found the Skeleton of a Man, which was ſeen by the Miniſter, and among the reſt by Mr. *Moſs*, a very intelligent Gentleman, who now lives in *Iſlington*; the Skeleton was covered again, and from that time the Apparition and Diſturbances has ceaſed. And no doubt the Apparition in the Queſtion, if true, (becauſe we were impoſed upon by the Relation of the two Brothers that Vaniſhed) has ſome Cauſe and ſignificancy, tho' beyond our Sphere to aſſign it; however we cannot be againſt the ſpeaking to it, or endeavouring to find out its place, times and places of Vaniſhing; and perhaps if it were not a Civiliz'd Family, it might be more diſturbant.

Advertiſements.

☞ ON *Wedneſday* next will be Publiſhed *THE COMPLEAT LIBRARY for June*, containing ſeveral Original Pieces, an Hiſtorical Account of the *choiceſt Books* newly printed in *England* and in the Forreign Journals, as alſo the *State of Learning in the World.* To be Publiſhed Monthly. *By a London Divine.* Printed for *John Dunton* at the *Raven* in the *Poultrey*, of whom is to be had *The Compleat Library* for *May*, which was the firſt that was Publiſht.

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☞ REmarks upon the Dream of the late Abdicated Queen of *England*, and that of Madam the Dutcheſs of *La Valiere*, late Miſtreſs to the *French* King, and now Nun of the Bare-footed *Carmelites* at *Paris.* By the Author of *The Harmony of Prophecies*, &c. being the Paper the Publiſher whereof was Condemned to be broken alive on the Wheel by the Parliament of *Roan.* Done from the *French* Copy printed at *Amſterdam.* *London*, Printed for *Tho. Salusbury* at the *Kings-Arms*, near *Cliffords-Inn-Lane*, by St. *Dunſtan's* Church in *Fleetſtreet.* 1692.

LONDON, Printed for **John Dunton** at the *Raven* in the *Poultrey*, 1692.